

...we don't always get what we want.

On the Death of Sammie Felder Jr.



**My name is Samuel Felder, Jr. I was born
August 23, 1945, in a small town called
Copeland, Texas.**

My life of crime started when I was 14 years old. It seems that I just turned bad... I just started doing wrong, started stealing. I was burglarizing people's houses, I was robbing people, I was just a common thief..

We weren't no rich peoples. My father was what you call a sharecropper. Picked cotton. ... my mother basically raised us. My dad dranked. ...everybody was more or less simple people.

**My sister was going to go up to
Denver to visit my brother, and she
asked me if I wanted to go along with
her.**

I needed some money to get there...

**This particular gentleman, name of
Hanks, he had some money at that time
so I decided to rob him... I knew that he
kept his money under his pillow, and as
I was reaching my hand to get it, that's
when he woke up and he hollered and it
scared me... and there's a pair of
scissors laying there and I just grabbed
it, and I started stabbing him...**

**I will die on Wednesday, December 15th,
1999, at approximately 6:00 in the
afternoon.**

I can be pretty precise.

When I found out exactly what my day was, I made me up a little calendar, and it's going backwards to the day. I got it marked as 'D-Day.'

**I'm 54 years old and I've been down
here since I was 30, so I have had a
lot of time to think about it and it
don't scare me no more.**

I'll probably get up that morning pretty early. From 5:30 in the morning until 8, I'm probably going to say my prayers, read my scriptures, let God know that I'm gonna come--but He already know all that.

**And then from 7:00 to 8:00 I'll
probably watch the morning news,
because we watch the news around
here every morning--CNN.**

**And then my breakfast will come. I'll
probably be out here in the visiting
room from 8:15 until about 12:30.**

**You can make a list of everybody
you want to see and they'll bring
them to you off the list and you can
say your good-byes.**

They'll come get me around 12:30 and transfer me over to the Walls unit.

They'll load me in the van and drive me over there and I will be placed in a holding cell a little ways from the execution chamber.

**I will be allowed to have a spiritual
advisor. I think that's from 2:00- to
4:00.**

Then you get your last meal.

Then they will transport me to the chamber. They got this little table there, and two of them will strap me down stretched out almost like a cross.

**Then they put a needle here and
one here. Then they'll open up the
curtains and if there are any
visitors of the victim, they'll be
there also.**

**There's absolutely no way I want
anyone I love to be there.**

I just want to get it over with.

They'll ask me if I have any last words to say. If the victim's family is there, I'll probably tell them how terribly sorry I am that this happened, because there was no need for him to die.

**I know this is not going to be any
consolation to them, because
they lost a loved one.**

**If no one's there I don't need to say a
thing, just whatever comes to my heart.
I don't have nothing planned out or
anything like that, I'll just deal with the
moment as it comes.**

**After that you give the nod and it's over.
Lethal injection.**

When I was a kid, the year 2000 fascinated me. I went so far as to figure out exactly how old I'd be when the year 2000 got here. And I was really looking forward to seeing it. So when I first heard about this December 15th date, I was really disappointed. I really in my heart wanted to see that year.

But, you know, we don't always get what we want.

December 15, 1999

2:15 a.m. Inmate asleep on floor.

7:00 a.m. Inmate sitting on bunk.

8:15 a.m. Inmate visiting with Minister LaFaure.

11:40 a.m. Inmate visiting with his attorney.

12:30 p.m. Inmate visit terminated.

9:30 a.m. Inmate escorted to visitation.

11:00 a.m. Inmate continues his visit with a friend.

12:00 p.m. Inmate visiting with Chaplain Brazzil.

12:15 p.m. Inmate visitation terminated.

6:00 p.m. Inmate taken from holding cell.

6:01 p.m. Inmate strapped to gurney.

6:02 p.m. Solution flowing: right arm.

6:03 p.m. Solution flowing: left arm.

6:08 p.m. Inmate gives last statement.

6:09 p.m. Lethal dose begins.

6:11 p.m. Lethal dose completed.

6:15 p.m. Inmate pronounced dead.

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